

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the creators of the Kids Earth Flag and volunteers who assisted them.

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that this body pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of the many Tennessee children who, through their steadfast commitment to create a powerful symbol of hope for the future of the environment, have assembled the Kids Earth Flag, the largest ever created by children; and

WHEREAS, the Kids Earth Flag was initiated in Tennessee two years ago by Melissa Poe, a 15-year old Tennessean, and the members of her Nashville home chapter of the children's global environmental organization known as Kids For A Clean Environment (or Kids F.A.C.E.); and

WHEREAS, the Kids Earth Flag has grown from a few hundred individually designed fabric squares from Tennessee children into a collection of more than 21,000 squares created by children from across the state, the United States, and 14 foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, each individual square reflects a hand-crafted visual expression of a child's thoughts, concerns and hopes for a future of our world and its delicate environment; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer spirit of Tennessee is embodied in the efforts of the adults who helped the children assemble the Kids Earth Flag, including the more than 26,000 sewing hours, the use of a dozen sewing machines and 500 spools of thread, all under the direction of Sally Cheney of Nashville's AAA Sewing and Vacuum, with special assistance from Heidi Aspenwald and Hands On Nashville, and Becky Blackwell and her Music City Quilters Guild; and

WHEREAS, the Kids Earth Flag will travel from Nashville to Washington, D.C. to be publicly unveiled on the Mall on the 25th anniversary celebration of Earth Day, April 22, 1995,

with transportation sponsorship and assistance from Wal-Mart and Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, a “Journey of Hope” will begin for the Kids Earth Flag on Earth Day as it travels the nation for public display, and as more children around the world are encouraged to create and send in hand-crafted fabric squares to be added to the Flag; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That this body pauses to recognize the efforts of the creators of the Kids Earth Flag for its important symbolism of the hopes and dreams of all Tennessean children and for the children of future generations.